

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2-19-09
HB HS 18

Chairman Van Dyk and members of the Fish Wildlife and Parks House Committee,

I am Mary Ann Fiehrer (of 6367 Hwy 12 W), a 37year resident of Helena (and a retired schoolteacher). My husband and I own 2 parcels of land along the Missouri River that now have parked RR cars running through the properties. I am also speaking as the Chairperson of the Transportation Preservation Society of Montana: a grassroots organization representing many of the landowners along the Helena to Great Falls BNSF line.

We do not have a complaint concerning the parked status of these RR cars. In, fact, their being so parked has greatly helped the trespasser (and litter) situation that we normally struggle with year round; thus we actually LIKE the parked situation.

The BNSF left many open spaces among the parked RR cars so animals have still been able to access the river. ~~The parked cars have also acted like a giant fence in preventing the deer from getting on I-15 and being killed and causing accidents.~~ The BNSF showed great consideration in the spaces they left, both at crossings and other strategic points. On one of our river properties, we don't need motor access across the tracks, but without the space that BNSF left we would not have been able to access the river, at all, along our entire river frontage. Many other residents have also experienced this same neighborliness.

While the parked cars are not terribly appealing, at least they are not boxcars along this scenic stretch. We also feel in these tight economic times, everyone needs to be flexible.

And, last but not least, it is good to see the RR being "needed/used. We hope to see this line from Helena to Great Falls make a comeback; especially as we look at the national stimulus package and ways to create jobs as well as become energy efficient and "GREEN" in this important economic and environmental time.

Thank You
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